

REMARKS

Regarding original claim 1, “a link bar functioning as a permanent ... by respective horizontal shafts” has been amended for clarity. The “link bar”, new better defined in claim 1, functions as a permanent coupler and serves as an elongated drawbar member 34 disclosed in Daugherty (U.S. 5,558,238). Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention by better defining the link bar and wiring connecting box. It is submitted, therefore, that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Brown (U.S. 1,263,520) discloses an automatic car coupler adapted to couple cars as shown in Fig. 1. The automatic car coupler of Brown is capable of being coupled and decoupled. On the other hand, the link bar as the permanent coupler of this application is incapable of being coupled and decoupled. In other words, the link bar is a single-piece, unitary component as now defined in claim 1, and as shown in the drawings, *i.e.*, the permanent coupler, and therefore has no coupling at its intermediate portion.

A plug member 10 mounted under a head 1 shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of Brown is capable of being coupled and decoupled horizontally (rightward and leftward). This is effected by the structure of the head 1 being capable of being coupled and decoupled horizontally (rightward and leftward).

The wiring connecting box, as claimed herein, is a unitary piece supported by the link bar as the permanent coupler, and hence is incapable of being decoupled. That is, the wiring connecting box has no coupling at its intermediate portion unlike in the plug member 10 of Brown.

A significant, novel and unobvious structural feature, as now claimed in this application is the unitary wiring connecting box supported by the unitary link bar.

In this manner, the wiring cable of a front vehicle is coupled to a receptacle on the front face of the wiring connecting box and the wiring cable of a rear vehicle is coupled to a receptacle on the rear face of the wiring connecting box (see paragraph [0012]), without wiring cables interfering with each other. As shown in Figs. 4 and 5A to 5D, the wiring

connecting box 4 is a unitary structure that may contain two rooms 31A and 31B, each having an access cover (4A,4B).

Since there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Brown or Daugherty references to provide a unitary link bar or a unitary wiring connecting box, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Brown should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 19036/39692 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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